amount of Rs. 16.25 lakh was spent during these two years for organizing training and mass awareness programmes in the country. Out of this, Rs. 60,000/- was spent in Karnataka.

MNC's right over water

†763. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Multi National Companies are acquiring the rights over water instead of that of the community;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Central Government and other State Governments are also contemplating to privatize this sector;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The rights over water are not being given to Multi National Companies. The National Water Policy envisages inolvement of stakeholders, Non-Governmental Organisations and the private sector in planning, development and management of water sources. As laid down in the policy, the water supply and sewerage services in some of the mega cities are being contemplated by some of the State Governments to be given to the Corporate Sector on lease basis for management and improvement of service efficiency.

Creation of Grid System

764. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the comprehensive New National Water Policy proposed for creation of a grid system for major rivers to tackle frequent drought and floods in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The National Water Policy 2002 provides that water should be made available to water short areas by transfer from other areas including transfers from

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.